

Don't miss Clarissa's new book

Rifling Through my Drawers

Celebrated cook and outspoken champion of the countryside, Clarissa Dickson Wright opens her diary to bring us events, reflections and encounters from her ever-colourful life.

From meeting the President of the Sandringham WI to being propositioned by a burly greyhound courser, and from eating boiled gannet to battling with the Health and Safety officials, she brings us a rich enjoyable feast.

In a world of political correctness, *Rifling Through My Drawers* is a breath of fresh air and proves again why Clarissa is one of the nation's true treasures.



Win a copy of Clarissa's new book by simply emailing your answers to the following question.

Who was Clarissa's partner in the Two Fat Ladies TV series?

Email your answer to:
gunroom@lincolnshirelife.co.uk
by 12th February, 2010 - Good Luck!

The first correct entry drawn will win this marvellous book.

Hunter Tour

Will be at North Cotes Butts Gun Club on Sunday 14th March.

As with previous events, the 2010 UK PH Tour provides the opportunity for experienced Trophy Hunters and curious first-time visitors alike to meet Guides and Outfitters from Namibia and South Africa.

The Gunroom...

...moves up a gear and hopefully provides something for everyone with an interest in field sports or club shooting.

February closes the door on some shooting activities but that does not mean that we have a summer hibernation (if you can have such a thing!). Far from it and we hope that these pages will not only keep interest alive but motivate readers to send us their news, event details, anecdotes and just about anything else they would like to share with fellow Lincolnshire Life readers.

You don't have to live in the country to enjoy *The Gunroom* but you do have to have a love of traditional British life.

Words: Felix Bartlett

Listen to Clarissa Television's Clarissa Dickson Wright

Television's Clarissa Dickson Wright has proved herself to be much more than a celebrity cook. She has not shirked being a champion of the countryside and its traditions including shooting.

"I get really fed up with hearing people who hardly ever set foot outside the city trying to tell us how we should live our lives in the rural community," she said. "It is interference with something they not only know nothing about but of which they have no understanding and little interest of gaining any knowledge or understanding.

"How dare these faceless people interfere with British tradition!

"Shooting is as much a part of rural life as rounding up the sheep and should be left to those who are actively involved to decide for themselves whether or not they take part. Let's face it, shooting in the field has been around for hundreds of years whether with guns or bows. It is not as if the animals or birds suffer in any way. It is quick and efficient and, of course, not all who shoot actually hit anything.

"Those who know nothing of the subject seem to clump together all elements of rural life and liken

everything to battery farming, bull fighting and just about anything else which might be emotive. What nonsense!

"There are so many problems in the world and certainly in Britain and especially where the welfare of people is concerned. In my view the urban politicians and their do-gooder friends could find much more useful things to do than pick on the countryside and its people. Leave us alone and let us decide how we want to live our lives.

"I love shooting and I enjoy eating the results of a good shoot. Can anyone tell me why I should not enjoy a partridge rather than a chicken I have bought in the supermarket?"



DAVID HARTLEY/REX FEATURES,
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Better safe *than* sorry

If you are not sure about the latest licensing requirements you can go direct to the law by contacting the Firearms Licensing Department which is located at the Lincolnshire Police Headquarters at Nettleham.

The Department is one of many within the Police Force and its main function is to administer the Firearms Acts 1968 - 1997 as amended. This means that the Department is concerned with the public safety in relation to the private ownership of firearms and shotguns. The Department has direct links with operational police officers to enable the essential information network.

Your first port of call could be the Firearms, Shotguns and Explosives Manager, Mrs Helen Wilkie who can be contacted by telephone on 01522 558164 or 24 Hour Answerphone - 01522 558165. There is a support team too so you will have no problem in finding someone who can answer your questions.

Date for *your* diary

THE BRITISH COUNTRYMAN AND SHOOTING SHOW

Not to be missed, the British Shooting Show as it is best known, takes place at the end of this month - February 27th and 28th - at Newark Showground. Last year's event was hailed the best ever but this year's show promises to be three times bigger!

There is something for everyone whether into airguns or shot guns, field sports or club shooting, rifle technology or antique firearms collections.

Among the various halls and activities will be clay pigeon shooting competitions, gun dog scurries, manufacturing, tuition and even gamekeeping.

Definitely not to be missed. Advance tickets and more details from www.shootingshow.co.uk

BASC opposes *Scottish regulation of Airguns*

Plans to hand over control of airguns in Scotland from Westminster to the Scottish Parliament have been branded as unworkable and unnecessary by the UK's largest shooting organisation, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC).

Demands for this devolution of power, made by the SNP government and the Calman Commission, have so far been resisted by the Home Office but press reports indicate that a deal to pass over authority on airguns has been reached. However, it is unlikely to be before the next election.

Dr Colin Shedden, Director of BASC Scotland said: "Scottish government figures show that airgun offences have halved over the last twelve years - down from 1,150 in 1995-6 to 567 in 2007-08. Politics aside,

the practical difficulties of devolving control over airguns have been repeatedly highlighted by BASC and the dramatic reduction of offences and incidents involving airguns asks the question whether such radical change is actually required".

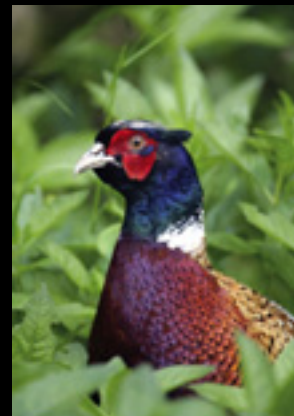
BASC will be writing to David Cameron and other party leaders seeking immediate assurances that this unnecessary move will not take place after the election. Airgun use is already well regulated by law. Claiming that this transfer of authority will lead to a ban on airguns in Scotland is simplistic. There are an estimated 500,000 airguns in Scotland and six million in the UK. Recognition has to be given to their importance in safe and effective pest control and target shooting. Airgun shooting will play an important role in the

forthcoming Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

Dr Shedden said: "The last thing that either the police or the shooting and rural community needs is more complex legislation or licensing. What has proven effective over the last two years has been the police enforcing existing legislation and the Scottish Government, working with the shooting community, educating young people and their parents of their responsibilities with respect to airguns."

"In 1992 handguns and revolvers were effectively banned in Scotland, but last year the numbers of offences involving such firearms rose to a record of 130. Scottish Police Forces would be better deployed in addressing this serious matter rather than being forced into totally unnecessary licensing bureaucracy for airguns."

Out of season?



Here's a reminder of what you can still shoot after 1st February when pheasants and partridges go about their business without looking over their shoulders.

Hare are still lawful to shoot all year round but other than that shooting is mostly confined to deer of which there is a growing population in Lincolnshire. There are restrictions in place for deer shooting with the closing dates as follows:

March 31st

Red deer hinds
Sika deer hinds
Fallow deer does
Chinese water deer bucks and does

April 30th

Sika deer stags
Fallow deer bucks

Year round

Muntjac

IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE:

Now *hear* this

Since the gun was invented many thousands of persons have suffered with varying degrees of noise-induced deafness as a result of the shot, not only from their own gun, but also from the noise of guns around them. Next month we look into this important issue.